

Serial No.: 09/635,073
Art Unit: 2666
Amendment dated April 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action January 13, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, responsive to the Examiner's objection, the hyperlink appearing at page 9, lines 9 and 10, has been removed.

Responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants hereby confirm the election of Group I, comprising claims 1 – 36 for prosecution in this application.

Claims 6 – 13, and 17 – 33 remain in this application.

Claims 1 – 5, 14 – 16, and 34 – 36 have been canceled without prejudice. The Applicants retain the right to present these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 37 – 39 have been withdrawn as a result of the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants retain the right to present claims 37 – 39 in a divisional application.

Claims 6 – 8

The Examiner has objected to claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and clarified, and it is believed that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rewritten to depend from claim 6, as amended.

Claims 9 – 13

Claim 9 has been amended to recite a method of enabling a subscriber to use resources on a packet network and to allocate costs for the resources. As recited in part, a request may be transmitted to allocate costs for providing a requested level of service differently from costs allocated for a subscription level of service. This is described, for example, at page 17, lines 13 – 30, and at page 18, lines 5 – 29 of the specification as originally filed. Cloonan et al. does not teach this. For this reason, it is believed that claim 9, as amended, is patentably distinguishable.

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Claims 10 – 13 depend from claim 9, as amended.

Claims 17 – 30

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 17 – 30 are directed to allowable subject matter. Minor clarifying amendments have been made to claims 17, 19 and 24. It is believed that claims 17 – 30 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 31 – 33

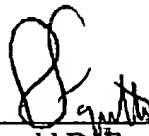
Claim 31, as amended, is directed to a method of allocating costs associated with providing communication between a user of a packet network and the packet network. As recited in part, costs are allocated in accordance with a modified settlement procedure which differs from a settlement procedure previously subscribed to. This is described, for example, at page 17, lines 13 – 30, and at page 18, lines 5 – 29 of the specification as originally filed. Cloonan et al. does not teach this. For this reason, it is believed that claim 31, as amended, is patentably distinguishable.

Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 31, as amended.

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With the above amendments and arguments, it is believed that all of the Examiner's objections have been addressed. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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